



UNITED STATES ARMY

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

MAY 8 2003



MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence

1. America's Army has many reasons to be proud, including our recent battlefield successes, which reflect the Army Values. Domestic violence incidents, however, do not reflect our values and when incidents occur they place a tremendous strain on our Soldiers, families and leaders.
2. The Army's goal is to eliminate domestic violence. This violence threatens the safety and welfare of our military families and communities. Further, domestic violence within our families undermines unit cohesion, morale, and readiness.
3. Leaders at all levels must be personally engaged in the effort to end domestic violence and use all programs and resources at their disposal to meet our important responsibilities to Soldiers and their families to eliminate domestic violence and protect victims. Central to our success in this endeavor is increasing the life skills of Soldiers and their families. We are committed to providing increased educational opportunities in the myriad areas of developing life skills.
4. We will enhance and implement new procedures that provide commanders with the ability to intervene before domestic violence occurs. These enhanced procedures will allow Soldiers to voluntarily participate in prevention programs, under certain circumstances without command referral.
5. I encourage all Commanders to exercise effective leadership in order to accomplish our goal. This approach is essential for readiness and Soldier Well-Being.

ERIC K. SHINSEKI  
General, United States Army

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SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

MAY 8 2003



MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMY

SUBJECT: Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is contrary to Army values and threatens the safety and welfare of our military families and communities. Incidents of domestic violence undermine unit cohesion, morale and readiness. Preventing domestic violence is a command priority and a leader responsibility. The safety of the victims is paramount. Leaders at all levels must recognize domestic violence as serious misconduct and engage themselves and all appropriate resources at their disposal to meet our responsibility to Soldiers and their families to end domestic violence.

Seeking help is a sign of strength. We continue to make progress in increasing awareness and understanding of domestic violence through enhancing and implementing a number of prevention and treatment programs to strengthen Army families. We must maintain our momentum by continually educating Soldiers and their families on the underlying issues contributing to domestic violence and on the support systems and resources available to assist them. If necessary, we should also encourage individuals to avail themselves of this support network.

Prevention and early intervention are our goals, but make no mistake, if prevention fails, the Army will take appropriate action in each case. I ask you to help ensure that the Army prevents domestic violence and make our military communities safe for America's finest Soldiers and their families.

  
Thomas E. White



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
201 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0201


REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

05 DEC 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Reporting Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Incidents by Commanders and Senior Noncommissioned Officers

1. Domestic violence continues to be a serious concern to the Department of Defense and Congress. For the past several years FAP has experienced a noticeable decline in incidence reporting. We believe this reduction may be partly attributed to fears of an adverse impact on career progression and underreporting by Commanders and Senior Noncommissioned Officers. The Army Surgeon General and a recent Cornell University FAP Case Review Committee Practices and Procedures Study have raised evidence of this problem.
2. Commanders and Senior Noncommissioned Officers at all levels are key in ensuring that incidents of domestic violence are reported lest we put families and soldiers in danger. In accordance with AR 608-18, para 1-7(4) unit commanders will report suspected spouse and child abuse to the Reporting Point of Contact on the installation and provide relevant information to those investigating the report. Installation FAP managers are available to provide regulatory training and guidance to commanders in accordance with AR 608-18.

  
JOHN M. KEANE  
General, U.S. Army  
Vice Chief of Staff

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SUBJECT: Reporting Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Incidents by Commanders and Senior Noncommissioned Officers

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